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PERONISTS DENY SEEKING SUPPORT ABROAD

PY160330 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2320 GMT 13 Jun 80

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jun (NA)--The Peronists have denied that they are seeking any type of support from abroad. The denial was made public in a communique that was signed by Deolingo Felipe Bittel, vice chairman in charge of the Justicialist National Council.

The communique indicates that the denial was made public "in view of press reports that tell of alleged negotiations that have been carried out abroad which were authorized by the legal and political authorities of the Justicialist Party (PJ)."

The communique states that Bittel "has the duty to report that the political directorate of Peronism has not negotiated any type of support abroad through any type of personal or organizational contacts." It adds that "Peronism is managed by those who remain in the country and who are, therefore, due to known circumstances, its leaders; and they have a public position that cannot be distorted because it is supported by the very long time that they have been at the service of the national movement."

Finally, the communique indicated that "it is also necessary to state that the president of the party is Mrs Maria Estela Martinez de Peron who, with dignity, has been imprisoned and has been suffering persecution for the past 4 years."

The communique does not clarify the alleged "negotiations abroad" that were mentioned, but it has been indicated in party circles that the only report that could be linked to them is the upcoming visit that Hector Campora will make to Panama for a meeting with that country's political chief, Omar Torrijos.

Bittel has held a series of meetings with party leaders in this capital, among them Angel Federico Robledo, who has presumably expressed his obedience to the Justicialist leadership and has stated that he does not intend to participate in the official political dialogue if he is called on to do so in a private capacity. Leaders Julio Barbaro; Juan Labake; Virginia Sanguinetti; Eubaldo Merino; Herminio Iglesias; Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, chairman of the Del Plata circle; and Vicente Soland Lima, chairman of the Popular Conservative Party, also held talks with Bittel.

Bittel also held talks with Antony Freeman, labor attache of the U.S. Embassy, who said farewell, since he is returning to his country to participate in President Carter's reelection campaign.

BRIEFS

SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES--The Argentine Government has announced that it has suspended the reception of new Southeast Asian refugees until an evaluation is made of the reasons why many refugees have not adapted to their new environment. [Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 13 Jun 80 p 9 PY]

SPANISH TRADE MISSION--Cordoba--A 26-member Spanish trade mission will stay here for 4 days to make contacts in the car components and spare parts business sector. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Jun 80 PY]

PRESIDENT GUEILER INTERVIEWED BY JORNAL DO BRASIL

PY162316 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 15 Jun 80 p 14

[By special correspondent Rosental Calmon Alves]

[Excerpts] La Paz--President Lidia Gueiler stated that "the storm is over," and she also confessed that "it was the most difficult time since I became the head of the government," when she referred to the political-military crisis of the past few days when the Bolivian democratic process was seriously threatened by a coup d'etat. Mrs Gueiler, through dialogue, was able to overcome the crisis and replace it with a relaxation of tensions in which the armed forces ended up by changing their aggressiveness and threatening declarations to a very clear position of subordination to the government.

"It was a great victory," the president remarked in a euphoric mood during an interview with JORNAL DO BRASIL just after the commander in chief of the armed forces, Gen Armando Reyes Villa, gave her a guarantee that the armed forces would fully obey the decision to hold the general elections on 29 June and that they were ready to help in the organization of the balloting.

President Gueiler explained that in the episode with the ambassador "there was a wrong interpretation of events in the first place, because two totally different events coincided: the U.S. Government's declaration (opposing a coup d'etat) and a press comment.

"Therefore, I do not know whether it was due to interests stemming from current political events, but that opportunity was taken to combine the two matters and thus present a totally different image," Mrs Gueiler added, thus absolving the U.S. ambassador of any type of interference.

She remarked that she has maintained contacts with Ambassador Marvin Weissman, and she stressed that "he personally never made any type of declaration, absolutely none. It was just a press comment that was used in conjunction with other information."

"Regarding this problem, our government acted very cautiously, and this is additional proof of our responsibility," the president added. She explained that the Bolivian ambassador to the United States has been recalled "for normal consultation on various topics, which is routine in the Foreign Ministry, because the topics can only be discussed at the personal level."

Regarding the hunger strike that is being carried out by approximately 80 militants of the rightist Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] who are demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. ambassador, President Gueiler recalled that the armed forces, the church, Congress and her government, through a committee of ministers, have asked them to put an end to that radical movement.

"I hope that they will reconsider and understand that this is not the time for making a decision of that nature, and that they could cause harm now that we are in the final stretch of the electoral campaign," President Gueiler warned, and she then indirectly criticized the FSB.

"Many times the people are surprised--and I observed a lot of this in Congress--that someone who has a policy that defends imperialism can be suddenly turn around due to political events and circumstances and attack imperialism, thus changing his political position."

"I really see the answer of the armed forces as something that is in line with the historic document that they submitted asking for a postponement of the elections because it demonstrates the concern of the armed forces with regard to the democratic process. And now it is evidently much more important that all of us Bolivians be united supporting the country's development," the president said.

"Yes, I believe that the storm is now over...." she continued, "but now we must insist and stand firm on the following: There is a very great challenge for the political parties. We hope that the maturity of those parties, organizations and of the people in general will conclude in a favorable result for the consolidation of democracy."

"Well, I believe that it was the most difficult time since I became the head of the government," the president said, after reluctantly answering the question, stressing that "truly, all the time it has been difficult."

"What moment has not been difficult since I assumed the presidency?" the president recalled. "During all the times of crisis, I have been able to count first on the support of my Cabinet and then on the support of the people, because thank God I have that spirit of being able to face everything with a smile and dialogue," the president remarked.

Dialogue has always been the basis of her relations with the armed forces, and thanks to this fact, during the past few days "the armed forces have demonstrated their concern and their desire to respect the will of the people."

"I have always maintained a dialogue with the armed forces. I cannot complain about anything because I have permanently maintained good relations with them," the president stated, although she refused to comment on the incident involving Col Carlos Estrada, who a week ago tried to force the door of her room in the official residence, threatening to attack her.

"Look here, at this time I do not want to count the negative events. All negative events have been annulled, overcome, with this great victory that we have obtained," the president said.

REGISTRATION FOR 29 JUN ELECTIONS CLOSES

PY161540 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Text] The national Electoral Court yesterday definitively closed the registration of candidates for the 29 June elections. As of 1800, the modifications of the lists of senators and deputies had been submitted for the 13 fronts. No official withdrawal has been submitted for Juan Lechin and Anibal Aguilar, who thus remain qualified as presidential and vice presidential candidates, respectively.

As expected the 13 electoral formulas registered before the deadline set by the electoral schedule confirmed their participation in the general elections, but over 80 changes were made in the lists of candidates for senators and deputies.

The Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left, PRIN, had announced the withdrawal of its presidential and vice presidential candidates [Lechin and Aguilar], but the party did not officially notify the Electoral Court and they are therefore considered qualified to participate in the 29 June elections.

GUINEA-BISSAU PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR 6-DAY VISIT

PY170013 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Excerpts] At 1500 this afternoon President Joao Figueiredo welcomed the president of Guinea-Bissau, Luis Cabral, who has arrived in Brazil for a 6-day visit. His trip is principally a political one, and its main aspect is that of strengthening Brazil's relations with Portuguese-speaking countries.

At 1700 this afternoon President Figueiredo received Luis Cabral, the president of Guinea-Bissau, in his office at the Planalto Palace for the first of several meetings.

FOREIGN MINISTER ASSESSES AFRICAN TOUR

PY141731 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2244 GMT 13 Jun 80

[Text] Brasilia, 13 Jun (LATIN)--Brazilian Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro said here today that Brazil may supply humanitarian aid to the African liberation movements.

Saraiva Guerreiro returned yesterday from a 12-day tour through five African nations. Summing up his trip he said that the contacts with the governments of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mozambique and Angola surpassed expectations and were characterized by great confidence.

He said that an official of one of the countries he visited, whose name he refused to disclose, had suggested that Brazil mediate with the South African Government to seek a solution to the problem with Namibia.

He explained that his visit to Africa opened possibilities of cooperation between Brazil and African countries and that although this trade may not be in great volume, it will be of great importance. He noted that this cooperation in several areas will result in "mutual benefit."

ITALIAN GROUP TO BUILD CORVETTES, SUBMARINES

PY131532 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Jun 80 p 5

[Excerpt] They navy minister, Adm Maximiano da Fonseca, together with eight Italian businessmen, visited President Figueiredo yesterday morning to report that an agreement has been signed for the construction in Brazilian shipyards of 12 corvettes and 9 submarines, including the transfer of technology.

On leaving the president's office, the businessmen, who are members of a group called Fincantieri of Genoa, told the press that their plans with the navy are similar to what Aeromachi, another Italian firm, is carrying out with the air force as a partner of the Brazilian Aeronautics Company for the construction of the Xavante airplane.

The navy plan to which the businessmen have agreed includes a 10-12 year period with a total cost of \$3 billion. Twelve corvettes and three submarines will be built during the first stage at an approximate cost of \$1 billion. The submarines will be of the modern conventional type.

TURBAY SUBMITS BILL PARDONING INSURRECTIONISTS

PA141938 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jun 80

[Excerpt] At a podium in Tolima, surrounded by [word indistinct] people who participated in the struggle when it became necessary to defend democratic institutions, President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala announced here the submission of a bill to grant amnesty to those who are fighting against the government but wish to put down their arms; so there will be no pretext to disturb peace.

Under a blistering sun and at the Murillo Toro Square, the chief of state, accompanied by Tolima Education and Health Ministers Guillermo Angulo Gomez and Alfonso Jaramillo Salazar, respectively, stressed the personality of these two officials who, he said, are not lackluster. He also stressed the work of Governor Miguel Merina Guardillo.

At the Murillo Toro Square before a crowd of over 10,000 people, the chief executive renewed the invitation to all subversive groups to lay down arms and strengthen peace among Colombians.

In conclusion, the chief of state, in his first speech here in Ibagu, said his government is [word indistinct] peace with care and [word indistinct] and, what is most important, that the Liberal Party gain new credibility to deserve the confidence of Colombians in 1982.

Here is what Turbay said:

[Begin recording] I know there are dangers facing the democratic institutions, and I know there are many ways to avert them. We can stave them off through a strong determination from the citizens not to allow the constitutional and democratic channels to be blocked or replaced by those of passion, anarchy or chaos. I also know that we have professional armed forces which will not do any more than the Constitution demands from them but which will not do less than what their duty imposes on them.

I also know that the government has political instruments in its hands and for this reason I have offered to submit to the next legislature a bill aimed at pardoning those who have taken up arms against the government and wish to put those arms down; so there will be no pretext to endanger peace. My aspiration is not that they lay down arms and become defenders or supporters of my administration, but that they be able to struggle against it through democratic procedures, through the test of elections.

Of course, to dispel doubts, I am not thinking of amnesty for those already sentenced or being tried. What I want to do is contribute to the country's pacification and not to a strengthening of subversion. If we were to set free those who have already been sentenced for their political crimes, for their crimes against the state, they will of course take advantage of the pardon. However, where would they go after taking advantage of it? To work perhaps like the rest of the citizens to expedite progress and development and to strengthen peace, or to strengthen the armed groups? I think they would go join the armed groups. [end recording]

Support From Politicians, Military

PA161548 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Text] Bogota--Politicians and retired officers have welcomed President Julio Cesar Turbay's announcement that he will offer amnesty to subversives.

Ret Gen Jaime Duran Pombo said anything [words indistinct] for the country is worthy of applause and even more so if the intention is to (?strengthen) peace in the country.

Meanwhile, former Army Comdr Gen Alvaro Valencia Tovar said the proposal is good but he thinks the various guerrilla groups should be consulted because they are the ones who will accept or turn down the offer.

Former Foreign Minister Alfredo Vasquez Carrizosa said anything contributing to pacification will have his support but [words indistinct], noting that Turbay spoke of amnesty and pardon, which are two different legal terms.

Cardinal Endorses Bill

PA170238 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Excerpt] Cardinal Anibal Munoz Duque said today that the amnesty proposed by the president of the republic to the guerrillas is good and will help to bring peace to the country.

The prelate warned that if the amnesty is only a political maneuver, it will not succeed because those who have followed the path of the armed struggle will only practice a new kind of terrorism.

Cardinal Munoz Duque, attending the 36th Colombian Episcopal Conference, made an analysis of the presidential proposal urging Colombian guerrillas to lay down their weapons.

PCC Gives Conditional Support

PA161546 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Text] Bogota--The Communist Party of Colombia [PCC] has rejected charges by the army that it supports guerrilla activities in Colombia. Gilberto Vieira, president of the PCC Central Committee, said this is just ill-intentioned propaganda to discredit the party. He added that the army's statements are aimed at intimidating the organizers of a nationwide civic strike.

The army command has reported that the guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] killed recently in Puerto Boyaca were found to be holding documents which [words indistinct] linking PCC leaders with [word indistinct] activities.

Vieira said he agrees with the government's offer to grant amnesty to guerrillas who lay down arms but said the offer will be of no avail if it does not include subversives already sentenced by courts-martial.

HAITIANS RESCUED 9 JUN 'NOT POLITICAL REFUGEES'

PA111832 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0119 GMT 11 Jun 80

[Text] Bogota, 10 Jun (EFE)--A Haitian Government representative stated here today that the 43 Haitians who landed on the islands of San Andres and Providencia are not political refugees.

Serge Colimon Haitian charge d'affaires here, told this agency that the 43 travelers left their country for Miami in search of better jobs. Since they were not familiar with the route to Miami, they got lost and were rescued Monday by a Colombian vessel. "This occurs daily in our country and does not mean they are political refugees fleeing Haiti, as the Colombian media implied," the official said.

The Haitians, who were transferred to a Protestant vacation center on the Colombian islands, told journalists that their sole ambition is to get to Miami. The Colombian Foreign Ministry is making arrangements with Haitian diplomats so the travelers may continue their trip after recuperating.

GOVERNMENT TO 'NEUTRALIZE PARTY INTERFERENCE'

PY162055 Paris AFP in Spanish 1523 GMT 15 Jun 80

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Jun (AFP)--The Uruguayan Government has announced its decision to neutralize political party interference in the present institutionalization process and to hold the politicians responsible for a possible extension of the present transitional period. Diplomatic circles indicated that the government announcement is aimed at shattering hopes for an immediate reactivation of political parties for the November constitutional reform and the coming 1981 general elections.

The government warning was very clear: "We are not willing to tolerate maneuvers of politically unqualified men who, through guises and pressure, try to outmaneuver the prohibitive measures which restrict them in order to reappear in the political arena." All activities of the traditional political parties, including meetings and statements, were suspended after Congress was dissolved in 1973.

Three weeks ago, however, political leaders boldly came out in the open after the publication of a constitutional reform project whose text, according to them, should first have been discussed with the parties and even debated nationally. Challenging all prohibitions, the politicians criticized the reform and demanded the immediate restoration of their political rights through which the present political process would be protected by "democratic guarantees," they maintained. They even suggested the forming of a triumvirate of the two traditional parties with the armed forces in order to reach a "national agreement," and in some cases they promised to tell the people not to vote for the constitutional reform.

Since the political parties were giving it so much importance, the government, in order to neutralize the politicians' statements, pointed out that the approval of the constitutional reform and the enactment of a law for political party reorganization "constitute necessary instruments" for future elections of both national and departmental authorities.

The communique issued by the president of the republic and the military junta indicated that "at this moment, politicians who are being punished and who are looking out for their own interests are trying to use the constitution as an excuse for party struggles. What is more, they want to use this excuse to regain positions which were lost by neglect or incompetence." The government pointed out that the men in charge of party leadership and those holding elective posts bore much responsibility for causing the institutional-political crises which the country underwent. For those reasons, the armed forces 'are not willing to take any political pressure or to permit the present juridical regime to be violated with impunity," the communique said. In line with this spirit, half a dozen political leaders were detained Saturday for several hours and "warned" of their responsibilities.

Diplomatic sources indicated that the episode of the warning must be added to statements referring to the people's rejection of the constitutional reform. For those politicians who made such statements, the following paragraph is quite clear: "If the inauspicious plan of the politicians being punished should succeed, resulting in the constitution being disapproved, they will assume the historic responsibility of leading the country--who knows for how long--through emergency situations, depriving the country of the necessary institutionality to face the difficulties of the future, which will affect its international prestige because of the unnecessary extension of that situation."

AIR FORCE CHIEF DOWNPLAYS STATEMENT BY BATLLE

PY162039 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2038 GMT 13 Jun 80

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 13 Jun (LATIN)--The commander in chief of the air force, Gen Raul Bendahan, has said that the statement made by political leader Jorge Batlle "has no political significance" for the Uruguayan institutional process, referring to a call made by the politician for a "national agreement." Batlle, who is a leader of the Colorado Party, said that in order to reach such a "national agreement" it is necessary to immediately reactivate the political parties, which have been in recess since 1973.

Asked about Batlle's statement, General Bendahan asked, "What meaning could it have?" He then said: "His statement does not have any significance for the present institutional process."

General Bendahan refused to talk further on the topic, and his statement is considered the only official reaction to Batlle's statement.

The plebiscite constitutes one stage of the armed forces political plan for the institutional process which will eventually lead to general elections in Uruguay in 1981.

AUTHORITIES DENY CRASHED PLANE BELONGED TO AIR FORCE

PA161526 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Text] Panamanian authorities yesterday reported that an airplane loaded with ammunition which crashed in El Salvador does not belong to the Panamanian Air Force. They said they have proceeded to capture and arrest the plane's civilian pilot, Cesar Rodriguez an aviation captain who has his own airline company and who was identified by the Panamanian authorities as the pilot of the Panamanian plane carrying ammunition to El Salvador.

Government Communique

PA161857 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1826 GMT 16 Jun 80

[By Antonio Martinez]

[Excerpt] Panama City, 16 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamanian Government announced today that the airplane which crashed in El Salvador yesterday with a shipment of weapons and ammunition had been taken without authorization from a local airport by a Panamanian pilot who has already been arrested. The plane is an Aerocommander 56-A which previously had Colombian registration No HK-1172-B and which was confiscated here on 1 August 1979 as part of a drug-trafficking case.

A government Ministry communique released to ACAN-EFE at noon insisted that the Panamanian authorities had nothing to do with the incident. It added that the person responsible--whose name has not been disclosed--is a civilian without any official ties. It also reiterates that Panama respects the principle of nonintervention in the affairs of other countries.

According to reliable information obtained by the Panamanian Government, the plane left here for Costa Rica where it was loaded with cargo. The Costa Rican authorities were unaware of this operation.

Panamanian Air Force Commander Maj Alberto Purcell told ACAN-EFE that the plane does not belong to that branch of the National Guard (Panama's sole armed institution).

"All of the air force planes are on the base. Furthermore, our planes carry numbers preceded by the letters FAP [Panamanian Air Force] instead of HP as the plane which crashed in El Salvador yesterday," Purcell explained. "The effort to involve the air force in the problems is outrageous," he added.

Nevertheless, the Government Ministry communique said that the Aerocommander HP-766 which crashed on a landing field in a ranch in eastern El Salvador has a provisional registration and that until the drug-trafficking case is legally decided, the plane is under the custody of the air force. The official document explained that the Aerocommander was in the hangars of a private company in Paitilla Airport in Panama City undergoing repairs when it was taken.

The Government Ministry does not specify what type of cargo was loaded on the plane in Costa Rica. It said that it has yet to get in touch with the Salvadoran authorities to establish the facts related to the accident.

The San Salvador press reported that the plane carried "a large amount of Sandinist ammunition and weapons."

Costa Rican Implicated

PA162012 Paris AFP in Spanish 1929 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Excerpts] Panama, 16 Jun (AFP)--The Panamanian Government today denied any responsibility in an episode of arms traffic destined for Salvadoran leftist guerrillas discovered Sunday when a Panamanian Air Force aircraft crashed in El Salvador.

Panamanian Cesar Rodriguez, pilot of that plane, has been arrested in Panama, the authorities added. During the interrogation to which he was submitted, the pilot of the twin-engine plane that crashed accused a former Costan Rican colonel of being responsible for the arms traffic to El Salvador, they indicated.

That colonel apparently hired mercenary pilots in Central America to take arms and munitions to ultraleftist guerrillas in El Salvador. The arms, the pilot concluded, had been deposited in a place near Tamarino in northwestern Costa Rica before being taken to El Salvador.

LA REPUBLICA HAILS SUSPENSION OF ITT AGREEMENTS

PA160239 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 Jun 80 p 4-A

[Editorial: "Our Communications"]

[Excerpt] National control of our communications has been a part of the struggle of generations for our sovereignty.

The confrontation has been lengthy, silent and vigorous. The transnational companies refuse to relinquish the control that they obtained by sacrificing a country that was young, defenseless and unprepared to assume these responsibilities. But this country has grown and matured and is technologically capable of taking the reins of its destiny. It has individuals who are capable of successfully completing all the duties assigned to them by the nation.

The National Telecommunications Institute (INTEL), as the representative of the republic, has made decisions that have been unacceptable to the transnationals, which have created situations that are unacceptable to Panama, its government and its people. Moreover, the actions of the communications transnationals have caused problems for the international financial center that is operating in Panama.

In view of all the foregoing, President Aristides Royo has sent a note to the chairman and chief of operations of the ITT Corporation in New York informing him of the Panamanian Government's decision to end those operations at the expiration of the respective contracts. Since INTEL is the only organization responsible for national and international telecommunications services in the Republic of Panama, we consider this to be a basic step in the process of strengthening Panama's sovereignty over its territory, airspace, and its communications by land, sea and air--since the government, in the exercise of its faculties, "has decided not to grant new concessions." This is because all national and international telecommunications to be offered in and from the Republic of Panama will have to be coordinated with INTEL, through which the corresponding arrangements will have to be made." [quotation marks as published] This is a firm step toward total sovereignty.

BRIEFS

FUEL CONSUMPTION REDUCED--Panamanian official sources said here today that the republic reduced its quarterly gasoline consumption by 12 percent at a time when Panama Refinery has asked President Royo's regime to authorize a new price increase. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 June 80 PA]

COSTA RICA

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

PA161534 [Editorial Report] San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1426 GMT 16 June begins broadcasting from Juan Santamaria Airport in San Jose the arrival of Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins for a 4-day official visit. Just prior to Herrera's arrival, Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo is briefly interviewed on the topics that will be discussed. In reply to a reporter's question regarding whether Venezuela will follow through in its offers of fuel, President Carazo answers that he is hopeful Venezuela will confirm its position toward Costa Rican energy needs. Carazo adds that a joint Venezuelan-Costa Rican committee will also discuss the Venezuelan market for Costa Rican products.

Following brief protocol ceremonies during which Carazo and Herrera exchanged greetings and just before departing from the airport, President Herrera is briefly interviewed. He expresses his hopes that the visit will result in positive conclusions for human rights, the freedom of the continent's nations and economic issues, particularly in the fields of energy. The airport transmission ends at 1501 GMT.

Herrera Call for Unity

PA170314 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Text] Venezuela and Costa Rica have been traditional friends and sisters that have maintained complete cordial relations which we have the obligation to deepen. This statement was made by President Luis Herrera Campins during the speech he delivered at Juan Santamaria Airport in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The Venezuelan president arrived there to initiate a 4-day official visit to the sister nation. He was accompanied by his wife, two sons and several ministers and personal advisers.

Costa Rican Government officials and representatives of other sectors welcomed President Herrera. The airport had been decorated by primary school and high school students who waved flags from the two countries.

The Venezuelan chief of state opened his speech by thanking the Costa Rican people and government for the way they greeted him. He also noted that he is the first Venezuelan president to visit Costa Rica while in office. He said that Venezuela and Costa Rica have governments chosen by the people. We have to present a common front to the threats against the dignity and freedom of man and human rights that are evident in many parts of the world and especially on our continent, he said.

FORMER OFFICIAL DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN ARMS INCIDENT

PA162022 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1951 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Text] San Jose, 16 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--Manuel Enrique Guerra, a pilot and former deputy minister of public security of Costa Rica, today emphatically denied reports from El Salvador that linked him to the capture of a plane carrying weapons.

Guerra told ACAN-EFE by telephone that he vehemently denied any report linking him with El Salvador because it is untrue since he has nothing whatever to do with events in that Central American country.

"If Costa Rica helped to get rid of dictator Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua, this does not mean that we have to continue or advance a single inch farther," said Guerra.

He said reports out of El Salvador had implicated him and reiterated that neither he nor any of his aviation companies have had anything to do with the events in El Salvador.

Press reports revealed that an airplane, presumably registered with the Panamanian Air Force, crashed near the Salvadoran city of San Miguel, and it was discovered that it was carrying a large quantity of ammunition packed in crates bearing Venezuelan Government property markings.

PRESIDENT THREATENS TO GOVERN BY EXECUTIVE DECREE

PA160343 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Jun 80 p 6-A

[Text] In a new message to Rafael Alberto Grillo Rivera, president of the Legislative Assembly, President Rodrigo Carazo announced that he might govern by means of executive decree if the Assembly fails to speedily approve the tax package.

So far the president has sent nine messages to the Congress in the past few days. In seven of them he has repeatedly urged approval of the tax package, which was presented for consideration by the Assembly on 2 July 1979.

In the other two, President Carazo has asked the Assembly to approve 14 loan contracts with different international organizations for a total of \$230 million.

However, although all the letters have been considered important, two are outstanding because of the issues with which they deal.

In the second letter, the president warned that without approval of the tax package--which will finance the wage increases of government employees--the country will run the risk of having its currency devalued.

The other letter is the last one, in which the president hints that if the tax package is not approved soon, he will be obliged to implement it by means of a decree.

Carazo tells Grillo that he is prepared to act. "I am prepared to act. The fate of the country calls for it, demands it. It is impossible to wait indefinitely," he said.

He added that the Constitution provides for the executive and legislative branches to legislate jointly. "To legislate is not a right. It is a duty. To legislate is to foresee. To legislate is to cure. The time has come to act. I insist that partisan politics must be abandoned. The important thing is Costa Rica," the president states.

Carazo adds that "we are obliged to procure and maintain social peace. Mr President [of the Legislative Assembly], let us wait no longer. Let us remember that the leader must always be in front. In my letters and messages I have repeated to the deputies that I have legislated as much as possible by means of executive decree. I have done so because there are many things that cannot wait."

The president states that he has proposed to the legislators a pact on essential matters, a pact that cannot be partisan or electoral, which must be basically patriotic.

Finally, he said that the matter which has motivated his letters to the Legislative Assembly cannot wait any longer. "Costa Rica needs us now. Onward."

EL SALVADOR

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON PLANE CRASH

PA162036 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1815 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Interview with Col Jose Guillermo Garcia, Salvadoran defense minister, conducted by Carlos Samayoa Martinez Jr at noon 16 June in San Salvador]

[Text] [Question] What do the armed forces intend to do in connection with the crash of the Panamanian plane yesterday?

[Answer] Preliminary steps of a purely diplomatic nature are already being taken. I refer to matters related to the Foreign Ministry which first files a complaint and then starts the customary procedures in these cases for the corresponding complaint and even establishes responsibilities for what happened yesterday with this plane of Panamanian registration.

[Question] Is it true this plane belongs to the Panamanian Air Force?

[Answer] This has not been absolutely proved. But we have conducted a preliminary investigation and the explanation given to us by the Panamanian Government is that this plane belongs to an air taxi company named--unless my memory fails me--Aviones de Panama. According to the Panamanian Government, this plane was stolen by pirates to be used in the way about which we all know.

[Question] Is all the war materiel aboard this plane Venezuelan?

[Answer] Here is a sample of the markings, which state: Ministry of Defense, Venezuelan Military Industry Ammunitions Factory, cartridges caliber 7.62 mm and its shipping markings.

As you will understand, this is not the first thing we have found that came from Venezuela. I don't recall the number of times we have found ammunition coming from Venezuela. I want to tell you that it is not that we are determining that it is being (?exclusively) sent by Venezuela to El Salvador. But we all know that this ammunition was sent to another country. We also know the circumstances involved and it is supposed that this ammunition is coming from that country.

[Question] Do you know this plane's flight plan?

[Answer] Yes, of course. This is the flight plan of the plane in which, as I said at the beginning...[changes thought] Here are the names of the pilots, which by the way do not agree with other pilots' name which we obtained yesterday from Panama. But the technical portion of the flight plan establishes the destination and the route to be flown. And I must caution that there was not only one plane. There were two planes, one that crashed and one that succeeded in landing and, according to the statements of eyewitnesses, peasants who were in the area, loaded the weapons that were on the crashed plane and took them away along with the two pilots; it is not known whether they were injured or dead.

According to the technical version, it is believed the pilots died. But this has not yet been proved. The flight plan was Panama-Managua-San Salvador, from which different conclusions can be drawn.

According to Panama's version, this plane departed from Punta Paitilla for David, and from David on, its destination is unknown. From Panama, we also have it that the destination and the origin of this plane's movement is unknown.

[Question] What does the Salvadoran Air Force plan to do from now on in connection with these violations of national territory?

[Answer] I can tell you that it is not from now on, but from yesterday on. Yesterday, I issued instructions to shoot down all planes appearing over our territory without the proper permission. I have stated not once, but several times, that we are willing to maintain our sovereignty because it is our duty. And we have emphasized to other countries that whenever any plane has to fly over our country, it must follow the appropriate procedure which we all know about, and which is done through the appropriate exchange.

[Question] Mr Minister, it has been said in recent hours that these arms were sent by the Sandinists to arm the Salvadoran guerrillas. What is your opinion?

[Answer] This is something that is very difficult to prove and you can be sure that it is going to be denied. But without doubt, we all know the course of the planes, we all know their origin; we all know where they came from and what the intentions were. Therefore, I believe that not only we, but all the Salvadoran people, imagine where all this comes from.

Nicaraguan Protest

PA161717 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1642 GMT 16 Jun 80

[By Mauro Espinoza Fernandez]

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Embassy in San Salvador announced here today that it will protest to the Salvadoran authorities newspaper reports regarding an airplane, perhaps Panamanian, carrying ammunition and weapons which crashed on Sunday on a rural airfield in the eastern part of this country.

The morning paper LA PRENSA GRAFICA reports today that the Panamanian-registered plane "with an enormous amount of ammunition and Sandinist weapons," has been seized by the authorities of this Central American country.

The aircraft, an Aerocommander 560-A, with Panamanian registry HP-776, crashed into a tree on the airstrip of a cotton farm in San Miguel Department, some 160 km east of the Salvadoran capital. The same morning paper reports that the plane was piloted by R. Caresiadas and Mickey von Seldlitz, of unknown nationality. The pilot and copilot were allegedly removed from the crashed plane by crew members of a second aircraft which presumably was also carrying ammunition believed to be destined to leftist clandestine groups in El Salvador.

"The report published by the newspaper is irresponsible," Nicaraguan Ambassador in El Salvador Francisco Quinonez Reyes told ACAN-EFE this morning. He added that a protest note is being prepared for delivery to the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry. "The headline is alarmist and misleads readers. No responsible source is given. It appears as though the reporter had been there to confirm things," the diplomat added. Quinonez Reyes also said that his country "respects the principle of nonintervention and free determination of peoples. I maintain this because it has been previously reiterated," he added.

Inside the aircraft, which is being guarded by Salvadoran Army troops, there are more than 22,000 rounds of 7.62 caliber ammunition of the type used by combat rifles in the national army and by weapons known to be used by clandestine groups of the left and the right.

Apparently, the ammunition came from Venezuela. It is the second time Venezuelan ammunition has been found in El Salvador. Several weeks ago, during a guerrilla attack on a Salvadoran port, the authorities seized boxes of ammunition from that South American country.

The Salvadoran civil aeronautics authorities have begun an investigation to determine whether the plane accidentally crashed on the farm airstrip or whether this was the plane's final destination.

"We have nothing either positive or negative to report for the time being. We have sent personnel to the site of the accident to investigate," a spokesman of the state organization that controls the flight of private aircraft told ACAN-EFE this morning. He added that there are some 150 rural airfields in El Salvador, most of them on the coast and in the eastern part of the nation, where cotton is grown. "It is very difficult to supervise all those landing strips," the spokesman remarked.

Light planes coming from countries in the south can also land easily in this area and it is believed that many clandestine flights carrying weapons and ammunition come from Costa Rica, which is only 2 hours flying time or less in light planes.

Apparently, the plane that crashed belongs to the Panamanian Air Force. Inside the aircraft, a provisional registration made out in the name of the Panamanian military institution was found. However, Panamanian Air Force spokesmen told ACAN-EFE this morning that the plane was not theirs. It is believed the registration certificate might have been forged. The report indicates that the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry is undertaking diplomatic investigations since the plane apparently belonged to the Panamanian Air Force.

The ranch where the plane crashed is located some 12 km from San Miguel, the country's third most important city, 138 km east of San Salvador. The authorities have refused to say whether the landing field where the accident occurred was the final destination of the airplane. "There are many landing fields in the area. The plane could have lost its course and mistaken the landing field," a source told ACAN-EFE. The field is located less than 1 km from the Pan-American Highway which links San Salvador with San Miguel.

Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, a member of the ruling Salvadoran junta, has stated prior to this that the Nicaraguan Government is supporting the armed struggle in El Salvador. Those statements led to the Nicaraguan Government's protest to the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry.

"There were many anonymous letters and threatening phone calls after Colonel Gutierrez' statements," Ambassador Quinonez Reyes said today. The Nicaraguan Embassy might deliver the protest to the Foreign Ministry today.

'Satisfactory Diplomatic Solution'

PA170319 Paris AFP in Spanish 0236 GMT 17 Jun 80

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 16 Jun (AFP)--Eight dead youths found in various parts of the capital is the bloody toll of today's developments in San Salvador. These crimes, allegedly committed by extreme right groups, are a new illustration of the wave of political violence currently affecting El Salvador.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia has expressed satisfaction at the investigations conducted in Panama on the origins of the plane with Panamanian registration, loaded with ammunition, which made an emergency landing at a city in the interior.

"The Salvadoran Government is not accusing any particular country in connection with this incident," Garcia told this agency. "There is no evidence that Nicaragua is implicated in these developments since, according to date currently in the hands of the government, the plane took off from an airport in Costa Rica, outside the control of the local authorities."

In this manner the mysterious incident that began yesterday with the emergency landing near San Miguel, some 140 km from San Salvador, and which threatened to become a serious international incident, seems to have found a satisfactory diplomatic solution.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT PARTIES WIN LEADERSHIP IN CONGRESS

PA160104 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1911 GMT 15 Jun 80

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--The official Revolutionary and Democratic Institutional parties won the presidency and two vice presidencies of the Guatemalan Congress here today. In elections held this morning at the end of the second period of sessions of the present legislature, Deputy Tomas Esteban Cepeda Guzman of the Revolutionary Party (PR) was elected president and Deputies Jose Trinidad Ucles Ramirez and Ruben Lisandro Figueroa Argueta of the Democratic Institutional Party (PID) were elected first and second vice president, respectively.

Those elected obtained the required majority of votes. Of a total of 52 votes, the new president obtained 34, the first vice president 34 and the second vice president 35.

Violence Repudiated

PA160105 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2018 GMT 15 Jun 80

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--Tomas Esteban Cepeda Guzman, new president of the Guatemalan Congress, today repudiated the violence that is destroying democracy in this country. In a brief speech when the new board of officers of the Guatemalan Congress was sworn in, the president of the Guatemalan Congress repudiated the actions of extremist political organizations in Guatemala, declared his confidence in the army as the guarantor of constitutionality and announced his intention to promote the practice of political pluralism within the Congress.

Cepeda Guzman, who was elected president of the Guatemalan Congress this morning, expressed his respect for the free expression of thoughts and said he will cooperate with newsmen to permit them to fulfill their task.

Party Leaders Satisfied

PA170004 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Text] I am satisfied, said Donald Alvarez Ruiz, who was seconded by Jorge Garcia Granados. The top leaders of the Broad Front parties, Donald Alvarez Ruiz and Jorge Garcia Granados, voiced their satisfaction with the outcome of the elections. They stated that there is no rift within the Broad Front.

For his part Jorge Garcia Granados said he does not know anything about the forming of a dissident miniparliamentarian delegation of the Revolutionary Party [PR].

President-Elect Tomas Cepero Guzman also voiced his satisfaction with the results of the elections. He expressed the wish to maintain close relations with all deputies and newsmen. He said he is concerned with the existing violence in the country and said he is willing to cooperate to eradicate it.

POLICE REPORT WEEKEND VIOLENCE, DEATH TOLL

PA162122 Guatemala City Radio-Telvision Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Text] An engineering student at the state university was found dead in the 1 July Colony on 19th zone. He was identified as Edwin Alberto Paz Izquierdo who was strangled by his attackers.

In total, the police reported finding nine bodies of persons who were shot in the capital and interior part of the country over the weekend. Three bodies were found in Ciudad San Cristobal Colony and the others were found in (Ocun), Morales and Zaval.

In Escuintla, armed men kidnapped brothers Jorge and Hilario Aguilar Garcia. They killed Jorge and wounded his brother.

NICARAGUA

NOTHING YET FROM CARTER, CASTRO, 'ARAFAT ON INVITATION

PA162301 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1910 GMT 16 Jun 80

[Text] Managua, 16 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Cuban President Fidel Castro and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat have not answered an invitation from Nicaragua to attend the ceremonies marking the first anniversary of the Sandinist revolution. The celebration of the first year of the Sandinist victory over the government of Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle is slated for 19 July.

During a news conference in which ACAN-EFE asked Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, about the possibility of Carter, Castro and 'Arafat visiting Nicaragua, he said: "The Nicaraguan revolutionary government and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) National Directorate have been sending invitations to personalities who participated in our people's liberation process." He added that other persons who are participating in the national reconstruction process, following the 19 July 1979 Sandinist victory, have also been invited. He added that many leaders from Latin America and other parts of the world are also receiving invitations.

"At this moment we cannot make everything depend on a few names (Carter, Castro and 'Arafat). Instead, we want to stress the government's general policy aimed at strengthening the relations of the Nicaraguan revolution with other countries and peoples," Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra indicated.

Over the weekend, local newspapers carried long reports on the possibility of Carter, Castro and 'Arafat coming to Nicaragua. Meanwhile, official sources have confirmed that the Nicaraguan Government had invited them, but so far, no answer has been received confirming or denying the visit of those world leaders to Nicaragua on 19 July.

GDR TO SUPPLY EQUIPMENT UNDER TRADE PACT

PA151453 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Jun 80

[Text] The GDR will supply over 800 trucks of the (Izas) brand to Nicaragua under a trade agreement signed recently by the two countries.

The treaty also provides for delivery to Nicaragua of 150 tractor trailers and forklifts of the Multicar-25 model.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO CENTRALIZE BANKING SYSTEM

PA170339 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jun 80

[Text] The Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction established the financial corporation for the purpose of gradually incorporating all 17 savings and loan banking institutions into five corporations. The measure seeks to create a financial system which is more centralized and efficient.

Central Bank President Ernesto Alani denied rumors about a possible devaluation of the Cordoba. Meanwhile, Eden Pastora, chief of the Sandinist People's Militias and deputy defense minister, said in Managua that if the United States invades Nicaragua, it will only be starting another Vietnam.

LA PRENSA DEFENDS ITS REVOLUTIONARY STAND

PA120003 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Jun 80 p 2

[Editorial: "LA PRENSA Is Not Disagreement But Freedom"]

[Text] We would like to protest to Comdr Humberto Ortega--and we do so because we have always admired his balanced judgments--for his reference to LA PRENSA in his 4 June speech, in which he said that this newspaper is in disagreement with the revolution. LA PRENSA's line is not one of disagreement but of freedom, in other words, we see the revolution as a national enterprise that concerns ALL the people and, as we have already stated in previous editorials, within that revolutionary framework LA PRENSA presents the open views of the people to the government just as it provides the people and the entire world with the image of a government that respects freedom.

Freedom of expression within the revolution is one of its original traits, one of the most Nicaraguan characteristics of our just and libertarian revolutionary process. It is a characteristic that leaves behind the common trails established by other revolutions and which, for this same reason, is difficult to assimilate and preserve in a fruitful balance. But it makes the Nicaraguan revolution immensely rich. It causes it to take root among its people and marks it with seal of humanism--of respect for the rights of man--that other revolutions do not have. Moreover, the image that LA PRENSA contributes to the revolutionary process--that freedom of expression exists and functions--does not create disagreement; instead it breeds confidence and credibility, especially among us Nicaraguans who have been fighting half a century for that freedom.

Therefore, we wish to establish clearly that LA PRENSA is a part of this revolution. We wish to establish clearly that LA PRENSA--this PRENSA--was not left out of any of the chapters of struggle, risk, sacrifice, death or solidarity that made possible the revolution, its victory and its consolidation. We wish to establish clearly that we are a part of this people and that the image we sought to project yesterday and want to project today is the same--that the Nicaraguan people are capable of waging their own original revolution where justice is not incompatible with freedom, where unity is not incompatible with pluralism and where socialism is not incompatible with democracy and fraternal coexistence.

CASTRO INAUGURATES HEALTH CENTER IN LAS TUNAS

FL142110 [Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 2024 GMT on 14 June carries live coverage of the inauguration of a health center in Las Tunas at which Fidel Castro is to give closing speech.

Coverage begins with shots of the crowd waiting outside the center for the inaugural ceremony to begin while announcer Manolo Ortega gives a description of the new facilities. The center includes a 630-bed hospital, a home for the aged, a home for persons with physical and mental disabilities and a health polytechnic to train personnel for the center which is already in operation. A huge banner is seen in the background that reads: "With Moncada as an example, with discipline and efficiency, to the Second Congress." Another reads: "Each cleared caballeria, each field, each furrow--in salute to the 26th." The "Combative People's March Song" is played. Ortega notes that there are over 50,000 persons present. He then launches into eulogies of Antonio Maceo and Che Guevara, who were both born on 14 June.

The camera shows Fidel Castro approaching at 2053. People immediately start clapping and chanting "Fidel, Fidel." Castro approaches podium at 2057 GMT. The chanting becomes louder. The Cuban national anthem is played at 2058 GMT while Castro and his group stand at attention. Raul Castro is among those seen on the dais. Felix Silvestre Sierra, chief of the brigade that built the health center, starts speaking at 2102 in the name of his fellow workers. He speaks about the enthusiasm of all the workers involved in the construction and the high quality of the results. He concludes at 2106 GMT.

Fidel Castro begins speaking at 2109 GMT.

Castro Speech

FL142245 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 14 Jun 80

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro inaugurating health center in Las Tunas--live]

[Text] Compatriots of Las Tunas Province: A little over 2 years ago we visited this province to inaugurate the bulk sugar terminal at Puerto Carupano. At that time we conducted an extended tour of the province and decisions were made. For example, [we decided] to build two roads because we observed that despite the revolution's having built many roads throughout the country, Las Tunas was not in good shape, road-wise. The road leading to the Argelia Libre [sugar mill], the Puerto Padre-Argelia Libre Road... [leaves thought unfinished]

At the time of our visit, the road to the beach--I believe its name is La Llanita--was under construction. It certainly is a great beach. I believe that is needed now is some transportation to go to the beach [applause], and a few buildings at the beach. At that time we also visited the steel frame and bottle factories. The bottle factory had just begun construction; the foundation was being laid. They were excavating the area. The frame factory was well ahead in construction.

We decided that the bottle factory had to be completed 1 year ahead of schedule. I believe the schedule called for completion in 1981. I believe that we will complete the bottle factory this year, this year. [applause] This bottle factory, of course, is the biggest in Cuba. I do not believe I would be exaggerating if I said it is one of the biggest in Latin America, since it can produce many more than 300 million bottles which are essential for the development of our economy.

During that visit, we also toured the construction site of the Bagasse board factory of the Jesus Menendez [sugar mill], which will be the biggest in Cuba in this type of production.

It has two production lines. It is twice the size of the Camilo Cienfuegos [sugar mill] and the one under construction at the 1 January sugar mill. These industries mark what we could call the beginning of the industrialization of Las Tunas. Other factories and new sugar mills are in the works for construction here.

At the time we visited here 2 years ago, we toured the construction site of this health center. Some of the buildings were well ahead in construction, such as the home for the aged, the hospital. Plans for the health polytechnic were being prepared at the time. Now it has been completed. The idea for the Las Tunas medicine school was being studied at the time of my visit. [applause] I should mention that the Puerto Padre Hospital is also under construction now. Let us see if we can step up the work and satisfy more completely the medical needs of Las Tunas Province.

For us it is a great satisfaction to come here today to celebrate with you the inauguration of this health center, which can be considered one of the most complete in the country. [applause] That is the advantage of making everything new. Since there was nothing here, we were able to do everything at one time, well combined, well coordinated. We will have the entire center here. The only thing missing will be the school of medicine, whose construction--the earth-moving portion--has begun. [applause]

These things are easy to say but are more important than anyone can imagine. I can remember when we inaugurated the Lenin Hospital in Holguin, that great hospital built with the cooperation of the Soviet Union. Some years have passed since then. On a day like today the Holguin residents got together to inaugurate that hospital. Logically, everybody understood the importance that hospital had for the well-being of the people and the people's health. Who knows how many tens and tens of thousands of people have regained their health at that hospital, how many hundreds of thousands. Who knows how many thousands and thousands of lives have been saved in that hospital.

Anyone could think that the task of a hospital is limited to saving lives, regaining the health of people, protecting the health of many, protecting the health of citizens. However, when we toured the Las Tunas hospital today we realized that these institutions have a still greater dimension because I asked almost all the specialists we met during the tour of the hospital--very valuable and very young specialists--where they had studied [applause] and where they were from. Some are from Havana, a few, but I met a large number who are from the eastern provinces, and some of them from Las Tunas. [applause]

I asked them where they had studied--as I said before--and almost all of them did either their internship or postgraduate work at Holguin's Lenin [Hospital]. [applause] Now it turns out that the Lenin has become an incubator for physicians and specialists, a forge of new cadres, those who are here to lend their services. Thus, when today we talk about this hospital being inaugurated and talk about this health polytechnic, which is already in operation, and talk about this school of medicine whose construction has begun, I can imagine the future, a new center for the training of highly qualified specialists, for new physicians to satisfy the needs of our people and possibly of other peoples. We now have almost 2,000 physicians and dentists working abroad.

What this hospital means not only for your well-being, and what that school of medicine means not only for your well-being, is immeasurable. The hospital which has a school of medicine develops still better physicians because those better prepared, those with greater experience are selected as professors of the center. I imagine that many physicians will work as professors at the center and professors of the school will also lend their services at the hospital. All that serves to raise the quality.

In reality we have observed a great change in Las Tunas Province. I was trying to remember what Las Tunas looked like in the past. Many of you remember, not all of course, I see many young faces in the crowd. I can also see Zayas [not identified further]. [laughter in the crowd] He has a young face. [applause] He has a young face but is more or less my age, perhaps somewhat younger. Zayas probably remembers. What does Zayas remember? For example, I remember that when we landed with the Gramma with a few comrades and two guns Zayas led a revolt. Not only did they revolt but they seized a garrison. [applause] Not only did they seize it but they took the two rifles they found there. That is one more example that to make a revolution, sometimes not even weapons are needed because the enemy has them and they must be taken from them, which was what we did.

I also remember when those two rifles reached the Sierra Maestra, it looked like a party when Zayas and Pupo and other comrades arrived. Another comrade was Garcia, who was very valuable. He died in the Sierra Maestra. His name was Dominguez, Guillermo Dominguez. He died in the Sierra Maestra. They joined us with their two rifles. At the time, two rifles were very valuable to us. They revolted on the 29th at night, prior to the revolution. [Castro makes an aside to someone on the podium] Well, I have not mentioned him. I was not making a recount. There were four of them, is that correct? It was Guillermo, you, Raul Castro Mercader and Pupo. [applause] They supported our movement under very difficult conditions, giving a demonstration of extraordinary courage. They must remember the past.

What was Tunas like? It was a town. I cannot call it a city. I would say it was a hamlet, bordering on a road. That is the truth. We have observed how much Tunas has changed, with these social installations, new housing. From here we can see several construction projects, such as the Polytechnic, the teacher-training school which has been in operation several years and has occupied an outstanding position in the nation as a good school. We can see all these projects, construction sites, factories, roads. The province is changing from one of the more backward in the country, one of the poorest, that was the truth about Las Tunas, despite the fact that Las Tunas has a glorious history, an extraordinary participation in our struggles for independence, in our revolutionary struggles.

Since 1868, throughout that war and the years of independence and in our revolutionary struggles, Tunas has occupied a prominent position. What did Tunas have? What had the nation done for Tunas? Practically nothing. The revolution was what started the development which in recent years has attained a very accelerated pace. We know, we are aware, of everything that needs to be done. It is a lot, we said that Tunas does not even have a hotel and some of what we can call broken-down hotels that it had are being used today by the technicians. With this development, with this hospital which needs 170 physicians, with this bottle factory which needs tens and tens of technicians and the one of steel frames and other factories, and there is no housing for them. We need housing not only for the technicians but also for the people.

There is an idea to develop housing construction especially in all agricultural areas, because, these areas are very poor as you all know. This is a province with enormous canefields, without housing. We have assigned priority to the construction of housing in those provinces such as Tunas, Ciego de Avila--to cite some examples--which are great producers of sugar but which, nevertheless lack housing, where the socioeconomic conditions of the workers are still very hard and very poor. We are aware of that. The province's party has set the goal of beginning the housing construction this year, at least 10 houses per cane district, which amounts to 70. In the area where the new towns will be built in the cane and sugar mill areas as well as in the sugar mills, especially, the ones located more remotely, which lack protection from the weather, such as Anancio or Argelia Libre, that is just a beginning because the country's future plans includes the construction of towns in all those districts.

I told Alfonso [not further identified] to begin the housing plan with those first small houses. I recalled that since the era of the colonization around 1500 at the beginning of the 16th century when Diego Velazquez arrived and founded Baracoa and Santiago de Cuba and some other cities, he established some sort of urban plan. It showed where to place the plaza, the garrison, the church, the municipal hall. We also have to prepare an urban plan for our towns so that the houses that are built are located as provided for by the plan of the future town.

We are well aware of all these realities but, like you, we are ready and determined to continue to work and to continue to advance. [applause] With regard to public health, which is vital and essential, I have brought with me some data on Tunas' situation prior to the revolution. In Tunas, as everywhere in the country, public health had similar traits and characteristics. There was no national policy for the development of services and, consequently, the province lacked them. The prevention and curing concept was not being applied in the health services. The population was not being educated and the masses did not participate in the health programs. There was no minimum standard of services throughout the territory. No comprehensive health programs were being developed. There was no development of specialized services. No programs of control and eradication of the leading diseases affecting the population were being conducted. There was no program for maternity, child care, nor for school children or workers. There were not even minimal facilities for the care of the ill. No general or specialized health personnel were being trained. There was an insufficient number of physicians, dentists, nurses, technicians and so forth.

There were no specialized institutions for the aged, handicapped and so forth. In connection with this dramatic reality, revolution has made a colossal effort over the past 20 years. In 1959 we had 58 physicians and almost all of them had a private practice. You know the story of the peasant when he had a sick relative. If he got there on time, he had to take a pig, hens, all of that to sell and pay for the service. That was the tragic reality. In 1980 we have 311 physicians. In other words, we have more than five times the number we had prior to the revolution. These 311 physicians work for the people. We had five dentists; now we have 76. We had 22 nurses; now we have 226. Nurses aides were nonexistent; now we have 465. We had eight intermediate level technicians, only eight; today we have 543. There were four small hospitals; today there are nine. There were no polyclinics; today there are 17. Dental clinics were nonexistent; today there are four. There were no rural hospitals; now we have one. There were no rural dispensaries; now we have seven. There were no nursing schools; now there are two. There were no health polytechnic schools; now there is one. Maternity homes were nonexistent; now we have six. There were no homes for the aged; now there are six. There were no blood banks; now there are three. There were 310 hospital beds, including the ones in private institutions where the rich could pay for them; now there are 1,451 beds which will be increased with the Puerto Padre hospital. There were no social care beds and now we have 380.

The hospital being inaugurated today will offer clinical-surgical and gynecologic-obstetric services. It has 630 beds which could be increased to 760 without affecting the patients' comfort. It has equipment of the most modern technology. It cost 16 million pesos, of which 13.5 million was for civil construction and 2.5 million for medical and nonmedical equipment. Some 28 different specialties will be offered in this hospital. Some of this did not exist in the province.

The home for the aged has 250 beds but could take care of 50 more old persons during the day. It has medical and nursing offices. It has arts and crafts areas, a physiotherapy room, recreation area and others. It has rooms for couples. This institution, which looks like a hotel, has been built in such a manner that the aged lodged there will have to continue to be active, so that they will be able to develop their bodies and minds, so that they may have all they need and be able to enjoy a pleasant, peaceful and useful old age.

The home for the handicapped will have 100 beds. The province already has a waiting list of 105. It can take care of 50 others during the day. It is a medical, psycho-pedagogic institution whose main objective is to restore the handicapped to their maximum possible limits so that they can be integrated into society. This health center improves the province's material base to face up to the growing needs of its population. Las Tunas was the province in the country with the fewest hospital beds because it only had 1.7 beds per 1,000 inhabitants and now has 3.2. What has been attained so far is just a minuscule portion of what the future holds. The Puerto Padre clinical-surgical hospital is well advanced in construction. When this one is completed, the indicator will be raised to 4.02 hospital beds per 1,000 inhabitants, which will be a satisfactory rate.

In addition, it will change an installation into a rehabilitation hospital which, together with Havana City, will be the only ones having that type of specialized institutions. [applause] We have visited the hospital wards. We have seen the equipment. They are the most modern in the world in medical equipment. This will mean security for this province's population. It will mean well-being and peace of mind for our people.

We have talked with the specialists and they have greatly impressed us with their technical qualifications, their human qualifications and their revolutionary qualifications. [applause] Specialists and technicians have been trained by the revolution. When talking about this, it would be convenient to refer to some statistics as to the progress made by public health during the revolution's years. For example, the present life expectancy at the time of birth is 70 years. We have the highest level in all Latin America in life expectancy at time of birth. [applause] It is almost the same as that in the United States.

In human resources, we already have 15,038 physicians. That represents one physician for every 650 inhabitants. We have that already. Around 4,000 students are registered in the school of medicine every year and will continue to be registered and raise the number of registrations in schools of medicine. By 1985 we will have nearly 20,000 physicians. We should have that number in 5 years. We will have one physician for every 500 inhabitants, approximately. That figure is also the highest in Latin America, that is physician per inhabitant. We will continue to increase, 5-year period after 5-year period, until we reach the year 2000. I think you will be here in the year 2000.

Since Alfonso's revolt, 24 years have elapsed and Alfonso is still here. What will we have in the year 2000 if we work hard? We have 3,560 dentists, 13,351 nurses. We are building more nursing schools. We have 12,727 nurses aides, 27,850 technicians and assistants. Those are the human resources the country has on the health front.

Another indication: The reduction of infant mortality. From more than 60 per 1,000 live births in 1959 to 19.3 per 1,000 live births in 1979. See how much infant mortality has been reduced: Reduction in the death rate of preschoolers, 1 to 4 years old: from 2.1 in 1962 to 1 per 1,000 inhabitants aged 1 to 4 in 1979. Reduction of childbirth deaths: from 13 in 1959 to 4.7 per 10,000 live births. The eradication of diseases--malaria, polio, diphtheria, tetanus--in newborns. Reduction of diseases such as acute diarrhea, tetanus and tuberculosis. The percentage of hospital births has remained above 95 percent in the last 10 years. In 1979, there was a 98.3-percent increase in the number of vaccinations: BCG [no further explanation], triple, antipolio, antimeasles and antityphoid [Castro has trouble pronouncing last word] Well, the accent is missing here. A doctor could tell us. [whispers in background] They tell me it is antityphoid. The accent on the "o" is missing. [more whispering, laughter from crowd].

There are at present four higher medical sciences institutes with 11 medical schools and two stomatology schools as compared with one medical school and one stomatology school in 1959.

In 1979-80, we have 13,052 students in the centers of higher public health, of whom 11,056 are studying medicine, 1,852 stomatology and 144 nursing. In 1979 classes were taught in 61 hospitals, 10 stomatology clinics, 14 community polyclinics, 7 hygiene and epidemiology [Castro has trouble pronouncing last word, crowd applauds when he makes it] centers and in 12 research institutes. From 1959 to 31 December 1979, 13,958 doctors and 2,973 stomatologists graduated. In this same period, 4,516 specialists have graduated, of whom 4,146 took medical specialties and 370 took stomatology specialties. There are at present 2,284 residents, of whom 2,073 are completing medical specialties and 211 stomatology specialties. In 1979, the largest number of blood donations was recorded: a total of 354,734, which is equivalent to 3.6 donations per 100 inhabitants.

I recall a few years ago we had reached 100,000, and now we have exceeded 300,000 donations per year. These donations not only help save lives in emergencies but they also are used to prepare products which are of decisive importance in the treatment of diseases.

Contagious diseases were truly a scourge for the Cuban people, especially for the peasants. Acute diarrhea hit children the hardest and was the prime cause of infant deaths. In 1962, 2,723 deaths were recorded because of this disease in children under one; 2,723 deaths. And in 1979, the figure was 140. From 2,723 in 1962 [applause] to 140 in 1979. An enormous difference. Almost total suppression of deaths on that account. And let us not speak about what it was like before the revolution. And dysentery, perhaps as no other disease, is the most manifest indication of underdevelopment, misery, malnutrition and lack of education. In 1962, 645 cases of tetanus, which is very lethal, were reported. They have dwindled through the years and reached 31 in 1979. That is, [interrupted by applause] from 1962 to 1979, we came down from 645 cases to 31 cases. Tuberculosis--another communicable disease. It demanded early on from the revolution that we expand or build new special hospitals. Today, with the exception of one, all tuberculosis hospitals have been turned into clinical-surgical hospitals and homes for the elderly or research institutes.

Mortality went down from 16.6 per 100,000 inhabitants in 1959 to 1.8 in 1979, one of the lowest in the world. In 1975, this rate was 19.1 in Chile, 18.3 in Guatemala, 7.8 in Venezuela and 7.6 in Puerto Rico. But what is more important is that mortality has reached such a low rate that it places Cuba in the top position in the world. [applause]

That is, not only have new hospitals been built; diseases have been eradicated as well. And we have applied preventive medicine, because more than having hospitals, more important than having hospitals is preventing the citizenry from having to go to the hospitals. That is why we have the best health statistics in Latin America. There is no comparison possible. We can analyze some of this data. For example, infant mortality. These numbers are per 1,000 live births: 94.3 in Paraguay, 80.7 in Guatemala, 72.4 in Peru, 63.3 in Chile, 52.5 in Colombia, 43.7 in Venezuela--despite its oil--and 19.4 in Cuba. [applause]

Mortality among preschoolers. Rate per 1,000 preschoolers ages 1 to 4: 24.2 in Guatemala, 13.9 in Ecuador, 9.5 in El Salvador, 9.2 in Honduras, 7.5 in Peru, 5.6 in Paraguay--it is because they die before reaching preschool age--4.9 in Colombia, 4.8 in the Dominican Republic, 3.8 in Venezuela--despite its oil. In Cuba, it is 1. [applause]

Maternal mortality. Rate per 10,000 live births: 47.8 in Paraguay, 23.2 in Peru, 17.1 in Colombia, 14.5 in Guatemala, 13.1 in Chile, 9.5 in El Salvador, 6.8 in Venezuela, 4.7 in Cuba. [applause]

Life expectancy at birth: 48.3 in Bolivia, 52.2 in Haiti, 55.7 in Guatemala, 56.2 in Honduras, 58.1 in Peru, 60.7 in El Salvador, 63.4 in Colombia, 63.6 in Brazil. I do not have the figure for Venezuela but I have read it somewhere, about 63 or 64--despite its oil. [laughter] Cuba: 70.4 [applause]

Deaths from tuberculosis: Rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 19.1 in Chile, 18.3 in Guatemala, 16.9 in Paraguay, 11.7 in Colombia, 7.8 in Venezuela--despite... [laughter], 7.6 in Puerto Rico--The Yankee colony--5.2 in Costa Rica, and 1.8 in Cuba. [applause]

Deaths from tetanus: Rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 11.9 in Ecuador, 7.0 in Paraguay, 4.8 in the Dominican Republic, 4.8 in El Salvador, 3.8 in Costa Rica, 3.1 in Colombia, 1.6 in Venezuela, and 0.2 in Cuba. [applause]

Deaths from measles: Rate per 100,000 inhabitants.: 79.9 in Guatemala, 48.1 in Ecuador, 12.9 in El Salvador, 11.8 in Paraguay, 8.1 in Honduras, 6.2 in Venezuela, 4.0 in the Dominican Republic, 2.4 in Colombia and 0.1 in Cuba. [applause]

Reported cases of polio: 2,502 in Brazil--now, those are the reported cases. Don't believe those people's statistics--558 in Colombia, 131 in Peru, 73 in El Salvador, 32 in Bolivia, 28 in Venezuela, 1 in Cuba. [applause] One case only and it was because of family neglect because they didn't vaccinate him. Only one.

Reported malaria cases: Brazil--now, these are the reported cases, I repeat, because if there are no doctors no one knows what is ailing the patient [laughter]--89,959 in Brazil, 83,289 in El Salvador, 37,306 in Colombia, 18,463 in Peru, 15,087 in Haiti, 9,616 in Guatemala, 4,759 in Venezuela and 289 in Cuba--and these are workers who have come from abroad and they are immediately treated and cured. National cases, none. [applause]

Here we have percentage of deaths from infectious and parasitic diseases around 1976. We are not talking about 1980. We have been doing better each year. In Honduras 44.8 percent--the death percentage from infectious and parasitic diseases--62.5 in Guatemala--take a look at that percentage--38.6 in El Salvador, 24.5 in Chile, 21.4 in Costa Rica, 24.6 in Venezuela, 54.2 in Peru, 50.7 in Ecuador and 2.1 in Cuba. [applause]

There is another interesting figure for this decade, very interesting. For example, calories per capita per day. Calories: 1,700 in Haiti, 1,812 in Colombia, 1,858 in Bolivia, 2,156 in the Dominican Republic, 2,084 in Ecuador, 1,988 in Guatemala, 2,350 in Peru, 2,049 in Honduras, 2,388 in Venezuela, and 2,728 in Cuba. [applause]

Grams of protein per capita per day: 41 in Haiti, 46.1 in Colombia, 48.4 in Bolivia, 44.8 in the Dominican Republic, 47.3 in Ecuador, 52.7 in Guatemala, 64 in Peru, 52.1 in Honduras, 62.6 in Venezuela and 70.1 in Cuba. [applause]

And this data is taken from international publications which deal with the health and nutrition of our countries. And when we say per capita, we mean per capita. That is, there is a fair distribution. When they say per capita over there, you know perfectly well that it is the per capita that existed here before in Alfonso's time. [laughter] Some got three times as much, others got nothing. It's true. Hence, these are eloquent figures. No one can refute them. And this is possible only with the socialist revolution. There is no other way. Under capitalism [applause] and under capitalist domination, it is absolutely impossible. [applause]

These are the advances of 20 years of revolution. In these 20 years, what have other Latin American countries achieved? What has imperialism achieved? See what a disastrous health and nutrition situation those countries are experiencing.

Even very rich countries, which waste millions that are the product of the plunder of underdeveloped, non-oil-producing countries of the Third World. And they cannot achieve [our figures] because the society of selfishness, the society of the exploitation of man by man, the society where the human being is worth nothing, cannot solve these problems nor will they ever be able to do so, because they are not even concerned about these problems and that is why, despite the billions that imperialism invests in destabilizing our country, obstructing our plans, waging campaigns against the revolution to miserably deceive the peoples, these figures are too eloquent for anyone to dispute. [applause]

If we look at the figures for education, the difference between those other countries and us is amazing. If we look at the figures for employment, it is the same thing, not to mention drugs, prostitution, gambling and all that. Not to mention it, because over there they exist in astronomical figures. [laughter] In crime, too. We also have our own delinquents. Well, we used to. We have reduced those a bit. [applause, shouts of "Let Them Go!"] Now, wait a minute. We have to be fair. Not all the lumpen have gone. Not all the lumpen have gone. Neither have all delinquents gone.

Speaking of this, we say this as a joke--or maybe we are serious--we say there is a new category--funny thing--the patriotic lumpen. [laughter] Oh, yes. There are lumpen who say: I am lumpen but this is my country; this is my fatherland. [laughter] And they don't want to leave. [laughter] But there are delinquents in prison who also say: This is my country; this is my fatherland. And their attitude is... [interrupts thought] I think it is only fair that we take this into account. It is only fair that we take it into account. [applause] This is the category of the patriotic inmates. Of course, now we can employ them in more construction jobs. We have to consider that many of them have learned construction skills. Many of them worked in this center, and they did a good job.

Many of them are working. It must be said that the majority--given the alternative of leaving prison, of being released and of traveling to the Yankee paradise--the majority said "No!" This is something important. I believe that what we have left here are people with whom we can work better. [applause]

And naturally, we have to take that into consideration, as our plans, our rehabilitation plans improve and we can offer them job opportunities in work they can do. It would be better to have shops inside prisons, better. This does not at all mean that we can ease up on the fight against delinquency and lumpen. We cannot, much less now that the lumpen and the counterrevolutionaries are becoming one. No, we have to keep up and continue this very hard struggle, very hard struggle; there is no doubt about it. But we must take into account these factors. How to deal with a certain type of people. There are others who are lumpen and have not left because they have not been able to. Also, the Mariel flotilla started losing transportation capacity. And we cannot get our hopes too high, although the house-cleaning has been considerable. You people of Las Tunas know this perfectly well. [applause]

Before, they used to take our doctors, engineers, teachers and highly qualified personnel. Now, they had to take the lumpen. [laughter] That is the truth. Those with their heads filled with illusions. Yes, we are an underdeveloped, small country. We are not an industrialized, rich country. We have to confront the biggest imperialist power in the world, the country with the most industrial and technical resources in the capitalist world. And we have always accepted the challenge. We have always accepted it. I remember those early years of the revolution when we only had 6,000 doctors. And they took away 3,000; they took away 3,000 doctors. They left us with hardly any doctors in the first years. And we accepted the challenge. We worked with revolutionaries. It is revolutionary doctors we care about. [applause] That is what we care about. That is the doctor the people prefer and the people want. And fortunately, we have many revolutionary doctors. [applause] And we have thousands of internationalist doctors. [applause] The situation is now better than ever in that area.

We have over 15,000 doctors now trained by the revolution, and 4,500 students enrolling each year. In 1985 the number will be about 5,500 per year by 1985. How can we fail to accept the challenge? We will accept all challenges the society of opulence, the society of lies, the society of selfishness, the society of vice, of deceit want, [applause]

Now they are saying that we have sent them some criminals. That is a lie. That is a lie. No one has been released from any prison; we have pardoned no one who is responsible for a deed of blood. That is a category apart. Safely tucked there. [laughter] Now, there may be an individual who a long time ago committed a deed of blood and did his time. And now that he is completely free, he wanted to go to the Yankee paradise. Well, good luck to him. What can we do? [shouts, applause] So that you can see what imperialist mentality is: They are apparently horrified, saying that we have sent them criminals over there. [laughter]

You can see the hypocrisy and phariseism of the imperialists. When the revolution triumphed on 1 January, characters who had murdered thousand of Cubans, who had tortured thousands more of Cubans -- Ventura, Carratala, Masferrer -- all these people, all these people were received over there with open arms. And real criminals took refuge there. Thousands of murderers and thousands of cases of torturers. The same thing happened in Vietnam. They took with them thousands of murderers. And also in Nicaragua. Wherever any government of terror, of blood, has existed, they receive them over there. And now they want to create a scandal because they say some criminals have gone over there. Really, what went over there... [laughter] I am not going to say they are criminals because a criminal is someone who kills you, who is in prison. After an individual has served his sentence, well that's it. He has canceled his debt to justice and the law. And he should have the same right as any other citizen: Of traveling to the United States. [laughter]. Throughout our history, thieves have taken refuge in the United States. But not chicken, goat or hog thieves, no, no, guys who took hundreds of millions of dollars to the economy of the country. And where did the Batista followers end up with the money stolen in Cuba? And where did all those billionaires of the previous governments of this country end up with the money stolen in Cuba? They ended up in the United States. And the U.S. received them with open arms. Well, let them now receive the lumpens, the thieves of chickens, sheep, hogs and other things. [laughter, applause] Why yes to that one and not this one?

Where is the morality of this position? Where is the morality of this policy? It is complete hypocrisy, total phariseism. The thing is they did not take the doctors of Las Tunas Hospital or of any other place. That's the thing. [applause] The doctors and the technicians in general have had a great attitude, a great attitude. Those who have said they want to emigrate are a small number, and of course, in the case of university technicians we cannot say right away -- we'll have to see how they are doing. In general, there are different views on this but at least a number of years of service is essential. [crowd shouts "Let Them Pay"] I have heard this a lot, the theory that they should pay. We would have to see how we would work it out. [applause, chants] But as a general rule, the attitude of the professionals, of the university technicians is great. This greatly pleases us. But it is the product of the years of revolution. Now we are better off than ever. We can accept any imperialist challenge, any challenge. [applause]

We even have some unemployment problems. Sometimes it is not easy to place into a basic industry an individual who has been demobilized from military service. This is because the population has grown; it has increased and the number is very large. We have had to make an enormous effort to have schools and it is not always easy. If we have an unpatriotic individual, a weakling who is holding a job and who wants to go to the Yankee paradise -- good luck to him, good luck to him. And then we will place the demobilized individual in his job, one of those unpatriotic individuals who if this country is invaded will be a fifth columnist.

He won't fight; he won't even manage to throw a rock. We prefer an individual demobilized from military service, a combatant, a soldier, a Cuban capable of fulfilling an internationalist mission, capable of defending his fatherland until the last drop of blood--one who knows how to fight, how to work, who has another mentality. It is preferable to have this man in that post. [applause]

As an employment policy, we have given deserved priority to those who fulfill military service. We must give them priority when they seek employment. We have a number of schools with several thousands of them training after service as construction workers, machinists, as workers of the mechanical industry and I think we will manage very well. Therefore, we should not worry if we lose a few soft parts. We are left with the muscles and the bones of the people; that's what we are left with--the hard parts. [applause] The hard parts of a people are the ones which are able to overcome everything. Those hard parts, which are many, have to be respected because they have an impressive strength as was shown in the battle of the masses in April and May. We are also left with the brain and the heart and the feet firmly planted on the ground. [applause] Plastic surgery for the soft parts. [laughter]

This is the reality and this is how we are facing and how we will face in future years this imperialist challenge. But I think they are going to gradually learn the lessons. The imperialists are a bit mentally retarded but they will have to learn what the use has been of their 20 years of hostility and struggle against us. That has made us stronger and it will make us stronger. What did they feel toward Cuba? Scorn, the most complete and absolute scorn when they imposed, when they intervened in our war of independence; when they snatched victory from us; when they prevented Calixto Garcia from entering Santiago de Cuba; when they used our territories to establish naval bases; when they imposed the Platt Amendment with scorn. And with that scorn they controlled our country for almost 60 years. But that ended more than 20 years ago. [applause, chants] We are ready to defend that morality and that dignity whatever it costs, whatever occurs. But what cannot be said now is that they can feel contempt toward our people. They must be aware of who our people are, of our strength, combativeness, morale, and dignity. [applause] They cannot scorn us. From a scorned people we have become a kind of ghost for the imperialists. They have lost sleep with their stupid policy of hostility and aggression against our fatherland. We hope they will learn. We have time for them to learn if it takes another 20 years, another 40 years and even 100 years. [applause]

We are ready to face this challenge this time and we know that as the years pass we will be less alone, less alone in this hemisphere. We will see how long the decay, these selfish societies, these exploiting, miserable societies will last. Let us see how long they will last, if they need another 20 years, another 40, 100 years. Because we know that we ourselves will be able to resist. Real freedom is not an easy path. [applause] Real justice is not an easy path and our history teaches us this. Our history teaches us this. The independence struggle began here in 1868, around here where you live, around these lands which were covered with the blood of so many heroes. The 1868 struggle began and they fought for 10 years but they did not achieve victory. They waited almost 20 years and they did not achieve victory as a result of the Yankee intervention. It can be said that it was after 90 years of struggle in the past and present centuries that we were able to be owners of our destiny for the first time. [applause] Truly owners of our destiny. Our historic responsibility is to know what to do with this freedom and how to use the opportunity that we have achieved in history.

But no [Antonio] Guiteras sugar mill belongs to any Yankee magnate, no Argelia Libre mill, no Jesus Menendez mill, no Amancio [Rodriguez] mill, Colombia mill, or Peru mill belongs to any Yankee magnate. None of these lands belong to any Yankee landowner, any big landowner. They belong to the people. They produce for the people. They are sugar mills of the people which produce for the people. They are factories of the people which produce for the people, hospitals of the people which work for the people. [applause]

[Applause] This is revolution, this is socialism, this is the great truth which the imperialists cannot conceal from other peoples, no matter how hard they try and in spite of the flood of lies they manufacture daily. They are constantly misinforming peoples. In this manner they may confuse one or another idiot, but no one deceives or confuses the people. [applause]

We must work hard, with great efficiency and precision. Only working and striving can we make progress. All the new things we see in this province are the legitimate fruit of efforts and work. This is one of the most important sugar provinces and has great potential. We know that last year you produced more sugar than in 1970, and that this year you produced more sugar than last year. But we have also had difficulties in industries-- this boiler was not ready, there were problems in shifting the tanks, there were other types of problems such as the number of technicians in the sugar mills being too few. We have been receiving information from all the sugar mills and have been taking steps. Because if it is true that we produced this year more sugar than last year and more than in 1970, we still did not harvest some 70 million arrobas of sugarcane, enough cane to produce some 90,000 or 100,000 more tons of sugar.

Even now, we are going to stop operation in this sugar mill and dedicate all our manpower to weeding sugarcane. The planting, weeding and harvesting of sugarcane are essential. The eastern provinces are behind in their weeding. Tunas, Holguin, Granma, Santiago, and especially Guantanamo are low in their sugar production. At this time the weeding of sugarcane is essential, both the chemical and physical means of weeding. Next year's sugar production depends on this. If we take advantage of the current steady rains and weed the sugarcane we can increase production next year when sugar prices are good. We must be aware of this opportunity to benefit from a price three and a half times higher than it was 2 years ago.

We cannot guarantee that this price will remain high for a long time but we cannot lose this opportunity and we must prepare for the coming year. This is why we want this province, in which we have had industrial problems, to take all the necessary steps so that January will not find us building a boiler. It must be ready before November. January must not find us installing a piece of machinery. It must be in place before November, before the harvest begins.

We hope that this year we shall have a much better sugar production than in previous years. We must produce 80,000-100,000 tons of sugar more than this year. [applause]

We are rapidly replacing the sugarcane affected by the rust. It has been almost completely substituted by other varieties resistant to the disease and next year there will not be a caballeria of 43-62 sugarcane [not further specified] which was affected by the rust which reduced our sugarcane production and the sugar yields this year.

During this year we will plant some 33,000 caballerias of sugarcane between old and new areas and next year we hope to plant 36,000 caballerias. We will have the means and equipment for this task.

We were successful in the struggle against swine fever; we successfully controlled the outbreaks. Our country is the only one to achieve this. Other neighbors, when the pest arrived, were left without pigs. The discipline and organization of our people made this possible. This is the second time that this pest has appeared.

We have discovered chemical means to confront tobacco diseases. It is really very suspicious that so many pests have appeared at the same time when we know that imperialists planned the use of bacteriological warfare against our country. They have thought up all crimes possible against our country to destroy our revolution. We have confronted all these problems and we are in shape to have a better sugar harvest, but Las Tunas must play an important role.

We would like to see this enthusiasm and working spirit win the right to commemorate a 26 July here. [applause, chanting] Think about it and strive for it. We know that you can; we know that you want this opportunity.

We cannot close this ceremony today without expressing our deepest recognition to the building workers who made possible this remarkable project and to all the people of Las Tunas who enthusiastically participated in this task which benefits you, and which is so important to all the people. This afternoon it is a cause for pride for all the people of Las Tunas for all our people and for our party.

There is something I left for the end, since this is the anniversary of the births of Antonio Maceo and of Che. Fate made it possible for two extraordinary men to be born on 14 June, two titans in our hemisphere: Maceo and Che. [applause]

Che was a doctor, an invader and an internationalist. He was a worthy man, an unmatched fighter, hard, competent and demanding. As a doctor he served our troops during the first months until he became troop leader. His name will be the name of this handsome hospital. [applause]

If Maceo were here with us, he would firmly support this suggestion. Maceo, who was so brave, pure, loyal, disciplined and grateful would recall with us, with the same gratitude we recall the gesture of this son of the Argentine people who joined us, risked his life many times with us and gave his life for the cause of liberating this continent.

We express our gratitude with the same admiration and respect Maceo had for this great internationalist, Maximo Gomez. [applause] Maceo is ours, his glory and his memory will be honored, but in a different manner. His glory and his memory will be honored in our work, in our struggles, in the fulfillment of our internationalist duties and mainly with our patriotism. [applause] We are ready to make true those marvelous words: Whoever tries to seize Cuba will gather the dust of its territory bathed in blood, if he does not die in the attempt. [applause]

Projects like this are a worthy homage to the memory of Maceo and Che. Fatherland or death, we shall triumph.

RADIO HAVANA QUOTES U.S. ARMY OFFICER ON REFUGEES

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[Text] U.S. Brig Gen James Drummond has said the U.S. Army is not supposed to take care of the antisocial elements of Cuban origin but to set up wire fences and fire cannons. He blamed the Justice Department for the disturbances that took place in Fort Chaffee a few days ago.

In statements to the Chamber of Commerce of Fort Smith, Arkansas, Drummond noted that the army feels vexed at the fact that it is being blamed for the problems at the center for the processing of antisocial elements in Fort Chaffee. The problem posed by those elements should have been handled by the director of emergency planning and not by the Pentagon, whose sole mission was to provide the accommodations, the senior U.S. officer stressed.